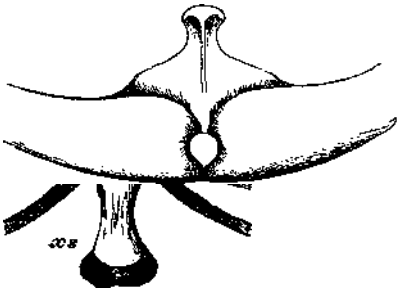
piece, apparently comparable to a xiphoid process, has been
detected.



Fia. 20.—Sternum of Radolpbi's Whale *(Hal-aenoptera boreaUs),* showing its relation to the inferior extremities of the first pair of ribs. x *-fa.* (From Flower's *Osteology>}*

FIG. 21.—Sternum of a yomig Dugong *(Halicwe indicus}. x* J. From a specimen iu the Leydeu Museum. j? >5, Presternum ; aw, xiphister-nuui. (From Flower's *Oste-ology).*

From the instances which have been described, as well as
from the mode of- development of the sternum and from the number of free ribs, *i.e,* ribs which are not attached to it, it would seem that the sternum, has undergone a considerable reduc-
tion in its size. This reduction may be possibly accounted for by the need for respiratory activity, which is clearly increased by
a less-marked fixity of the walls of the thoracic cavity. In the
case of the "Whales one can hardly help coming to that conclusion.
The arrangement in the Monotremata does not, however, point in
the same direction; for these animals are precisely like the higher Mammalia in the reduction of the sternum and of the
number of ribs which reach it.
The JEpisternum.—The Mammalia are as a rule to be dis-
tinguished from lower Vertebrates by the absence of ail episternum,
or iiiterclavicle as it is also

called. In the Monotremata, however, there is a large T-shaped, bone which does not overlie the sternum as in reptiles, but is anterior to it. The relations of this bone to the clavicles seem to leave no doubt that it-is the equivalent of the Lacertilian interclavicle or episternum. The Monotremata are not, however, the only mammals in which this structure is to "be seen. The Mole in the embryonic condition is